

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, US
SUBJECT: RESULTS OF YOSHIOKA VISIT

1. SUMMARY. IN DEBRIEF ON MARCH VISIT TO U.S., MAF SENIOR COUNSELOR YOSHIOKA TOLD AGATT THAT MINAG WANTS TO VISIT U.S. IN JUNE BUT BUREAUCRATS WILL RECOMMEND AUGUST. MAIN SUBSTANTIVE POINT OF VISIT WOULD BE RENEWAL OF U.S.-JAPAN GRAIN UNDERSTANDING IF U.S. IS READY AT THAT TIME. AGATT PRESSED FOR REAL PROGRESS DURING APRIL VISIT JAPANESE BEEF TEAMS. END SUMMARY.

2. MAF SENIOR COUNSELOR YOSHIOKA MET WITH AGATT TO PASS ON IMPRESSIONS OBTAINED DURING RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT. YOSHIOKA WAS PLEASED WITH PROGRAM ARRANGED FOR HIM AS HE HAD ACCESS TO EVERYONE HE MIGHT HAVE WANTED TO SEE. NOTHING MUCH NEW CAME UP EXCEPT HIS COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE VISIT BY MINAG NAKAGAWA AND ON BILATERAL GRAIN UNDERSTANDING.

3. AT DINNER APRIL 7, MINAG NAKAGAWA TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WANTED TO VISIT U.S. AND WAS THINKING OF JUNE. AMBASSADOR ENCOURAGED HIM TO GO AND TO ADVISE EMBASSY WHEN HE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLEAR ON DESIRED TIMING. MINISTER'S INTEREST IN U.S. VISIT CAME AS NO SURPRISE BUT MENTION OF JUNE WAS NEW TO US AND MAF SENIOR STAFF PRESENT. YOSHIOKA HAD PLANNED TO FEEL OUT USDA DURING MARCH VISIT BUT DID NOT BECAUSE INTERNAL CONSULTATIONS IN MAF HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE. THESE CONSULTATIONS STILL NOT COMPLETE. MAF BUREAUCRATS DON'T WANT MINISTER TO VISIT

U.S. AT ALL BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT HIM PRESSED ON AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS. HOWEVER, SINCE MINISTER WANTS TO GO, THEY ARE LOOKING FOR SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR VISIT. ONE POSSIBLE ITEM WOULD BE TO CONCLUDE OR RE-NEW BILATERAL UNDERSTANDING ON GRAINS, FEEDGRAINS AND SOY-BEANS. HOWEVER, THEY BELIEVE THAT THIS COULD BE BETTER DEALT WITH LATER AND WILL RECOMMEND VISIT BE IN AUGUST AFTER WHEAT AND RICE PRICES ARE SET AND BEFORE FALL RICE HARVEST COMES IN. THIS WILL AVOID HAVING AGREEMENT ON SUPPLY OF IMPORTED GRAINS DEALT WITH IN PRESS CONCURRENTLY WITH RICE PRICE AND RICE SURPLUS PROBLEM.

4. YOSHIOKA'S IMPRESSION OF U.S. POSITION ON BILATERAL GRAIN UNDERSTANDING IS THAT WE ARE INTERESTED BUT WISH DELAY ACTION UNTIL OUTCOME OF INT'L WHEAT AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS IS KNOWN.

5. YOSHIOKA SAID HE UNDERSTANDS ASST. SECY. HATHAWAY WILL PROBABLY VISIT TOKYO IN MAY AND THAT HE ASSUMED MAIN SUBJECT MR. HATHAWAY WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS WAS INT'L GRAIN AGREEMENT.

6. AGATT TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS YOSHIOKA ON SUBJECT OF BEEF TEAM AND ADVISE HIM THAT THERE MUST BE SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS AND THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE WRAPPED UP ON THIS VISIT SO THAT BOTH SIDES CAN GIVE POSITIVE REPORTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRINCIPALS BEFORE CARTER/FUKUDA MEETING.

7. ON OVERALL QUESTION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE, YOSHIOKA NOTED THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED TO NATIONAL LEADERS OF COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS THAT THEY STUDY USE OF DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS AS MEANS TO PROTECT FARM INCOME AND AT SAME TIME PROVIDE CHEAPER FOOD TO CONSUMERS AND REDUCE CONFLICTS WITH AGRICULTURAL EXPORTING COUNTRIES.

8. REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON TIMING OF NAKAGAWA VISIT AND DATES AND DETAILS OF ASST. SECY. HATHAWAY'S PLANS AS SOON AS KNOWN. MANSFIELD

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